

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing apparatus for processing an electronic document, comprising:

document inputting means fed with an electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

speech read-out data generating means for generating speech read-out data for reading out by a speech synthesizer based on said electronic document; wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document, attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

summary text forming means for processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

selection means for selecting whether the speech synthesizer is to read out [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document.

2. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds the tag information necessary for reading out in said speech synthesizer to said electronic document.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said speech read-out data generating means discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

5. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer is added to said electronic document.

6. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

7. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

8. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the language with which the electronic document is formed to generate said speech read-out data.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein if the attribute information representing a homologous syntactic structure among the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases appear in succession in said electronic document, said speech read-out data generating means unifies said attribute information appearing in succession into one attribute information.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying a read-out inhibited portion to generate said speech read-out data.

13. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the correct reading or pronunciation to generate said speech read-out data.

14. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the read-out sound volume to generate said speech read-out data.

15. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

processing means for performing the processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing means selecting the speech synthesizer based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data for indicating the language with which said electronic document is formed.

16. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

processing means for performing the processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing means finding the absolute read-out sound volume based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data indicating the read-out sound volume.

17. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

document read-out means for reading said electronic document out based on said speech read-out data.

18. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said document read-out means locates in terms of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document as unit, based on the attribute information indicating the beginning positions of said paragraphs, sentences and phrases among plural elements.

19. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing method for processing an electronic document, comprising:

a document inputting step fed with an electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a speech read-out data generating step of generating speech read-out data for reading out by a speech synthesizer based on said electronic document; said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether the speech synthesizer is to read out [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document.

20. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds the tag information necessary for reading out in said speech synthesizer to said electronic document.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said speech read-out data generating step discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

23. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer is added to said electronic document.

24. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 23 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

25. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 23 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

26. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the language with which the electronic document is formed to generate said speech read-out data.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein if the attribute information representing a homologous syntactic structure among the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases appear in succession in said electronic document, said speech read-out data generating step unifies said attribute information appearing in succession into one attribute information.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying a read-out inhibited portion to generate said speech read-out data.

31. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein

said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the correct reading or pronunciation to generate said speech read-out data.

32. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the read-out sound volume to generate said speech read-out data.

33. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 further comprising:

a processing step of performing the processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing step selecting the speech synthesizer based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data for indicating the language with which said electronic document is formed.

34. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 further comprising:

a processing step of performing the processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing step finding the absolute read-out sound volume based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data indicating the read-out sound volume.

35. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 19 further comprising:

a document read-out step of reading said electronic document out based on said speech read-out data.

36. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 35 wherein said document read-out step locates in terms of paragraphs, sentences and phrases as unit, based on the attribute information indicating the beginning positions of said paragraphs, sentences and phrases among plural elements making up said electronic document.

37. (Currently amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-controllable electronic document processing program for processing an electronic document, said program comprising:

a document inputting step of being fed with an electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a speech read-out data generating step of generating speech read-out data for reading out by a speech synthesizer based on said electronic document; said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether the speech synthesizer is to read out [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document.

38. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing apparatus for processing an electronic document, comprising:

document inputting means for being fed with said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements and to which is added tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document;

document read-out means for speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document based on said tag information; wherein said document read-out means locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document, based on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

summary text forming means for processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

selection means for selecting whether the document read-out means is to read out the summary text of the electronic document.

39. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the electronic document, added with the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is input to said document inputting means; and

wherein said document read-out means reads said electronic document out by providing pause periods at the beginning positions of said paragraphs, sentences and phrases, based on the tag information specifying said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

40. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said document read-out means discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out means includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

43. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out means includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

44. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said document read-out means reads out said electronic document as a read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document is excepted.

45. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said document read-out means reads out said electronic document with substitution by correct reading or pronunciation.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing method for processing an electronic document, comprising:

a document inputting step of being fed with said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements and to which is added tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document;

a document read-out step of speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document based on said tag information; wherein said document read-out step locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document, based on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out during the document read-out step.

48. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein the electronic document, added with the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is input to said document inputting step; and

wherein said document read-out step reads said electronic document out by providing pause periods at the beginning positions of said paragraphs, sentences and phrases, based on the tag information specifying said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

49. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said document read-out step discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out step includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

52. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out step includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

53. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein said document read-out step reads out said electronic document as a read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document is excepted.

54. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 47 wherein said document read-out step reads out said electronic document with substitution by correct reading or pronunciation.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-controllable electronic document processing program for processing an electronic document, said program comprising:

a document inputting step of being fed with said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements and having added thereto tag information indicating its inner structure;

a document read-out step of speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document based on said tag information; wherein said document read-out step locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document,

based on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out during the document read-out step.

Claims 57-130. (Canceled)

131. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing apparatus for processing an electronic document comprising:

detection means for detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

speech read-out data generating means for reading said electronic document out by a speech synthesizer by adding to said electronic document, speech read-out data providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the a least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases based on detected results obtained by said detection means; wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document, attribute information specifying beginning positions of

paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

summary text forming means for processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

selection means for selecting whether the speech read-out data generating means is to read out [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document.

132. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein the one of said pause periods provided at the beginning position of each paragraph is longest, with the pause periods at the beginning positions of said sentence and phrase being shorter in this sequence.

133. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds the tag information necessary in reading out said electronic document out by said speech synthesizer to said electronic document.

134. (Canceled)

135. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said detection means discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

136. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer is added to said electronic document.

137. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 136 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

138. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 136 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

139. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the language with which the electronic document is formed to generate said speech read-out data.

140. (Canceled)

141. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein if the attribute information representing a homologous syntactic structure among the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases appear in succession in said electronic document, said speech read-out data generating means unifies said attribute information appearing in succession into one attribute information.

142. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating provision of said pause period to said electronic document directly before the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of said paragraph, sentence and phrase, to generate said speech read-out data.

143. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating the read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document to generate said speech read-out data.

144. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating correct reading or pronunciation to generate said speech read-out data.

145. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 wherein said speech read-out data generating means adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating the read-out sound volume to generate said speech read-out data.

146. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 131 further comprising:

processing means for performing processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing means selecting the speech synthesizer based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out file for specifying the language with which said electronic document is formed.

147. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 131 further comprising:

processing means for performing processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing means finding an absolute value of the read-out sound volume based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data for indicating the sound volume added to said speech read-out data.

148. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 131 further comprising:

document read-out means for reading said electronic document out based on said speech read-out data.

149. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 148 wherein said document read-out step locates in terms of said paragraph, sentence and phrase making up said electronic document as unit, based on the attribute information specifying the beginning position of said paragraph, sentence and phrase.

150. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing method for processing an electronic document comprising:

a detection step of detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a speech read-out data generating step of reading said electronic document out by a speech synthesizer by adding to said electronic document, speech read-out data providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases based on detected results obtained by said detection means; wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document, attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out by the speech synthesizer.

151. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein the one of said pause periods provided at the beginning position of each paragraph is longest, with the pause periods at the beginning positions of said sentence and phrase being shorter in this sequence.

152. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds the tag information necessary in reading out said electronic document out by said speech synthesizer.

153. (Canceled)

154. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said detection step discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

155. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer is added to said electronic document.

156. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 155 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out.

157. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 155 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said speech synthesizer includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

158. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information specifying the language with which the electronic document is formed to generate said speech read-out data.

159. (Canceled)

160. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein if the attribute information representing a homologous syntactic structure among the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases appear in succession in said electronic document, said speech read-out data generating step unifies said attribute information appearing in succession into one attribute information.

161. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating provision of said pause period to said electronic document directly before the attribute information specifying the beginning positions of said paragraph, sentence and phrase, to generate said speech read-out data.

162. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating the read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document to generate said speech read-out data.

163. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating correct reading or pronunciation to generate said speech read-out data.

164. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document the attribute information indicating the read-out sound volume to generate said speech read-out data.

165. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 further comprising:

a processing step for performing processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing step selecting the speech synthesizer based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out file for specifying the language with which said electronic document is formed.

166. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 further comprising:

a processing step for performing processing suited to a speech synthesizer using said speech read-out data;

said processing step finding an absolute value of the read-out sound volume based on the attribute information added to said speech read-out data for indicating the sound volume added to said speech read-out data.

167. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 150 further comprising:

a document read-out step for reading said electronic document out based on said speech read-out data.

168. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 167 wherein said document read-out step locates in terms of said paragraph, sentence and phrase making up said electronic document as unit, based on the attribute information specifying the beginning position of said paragraph, sentence and phrase.

169. (Currently amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-controllable electronic document processing program for processing an electronic document, said program comprising:

a detection step of detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a step of generating speech read-out data for reading out in a speech synthesizer by adding to the electronic document, speech read-out data providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the at least two of paragraphs sentences and phrases; wherein said speech read-out data generating step adds to said electronic document, attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document and associated pause periods to generate said speech read-out data;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out by the speech synthesizer.

170. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing apparatus for processing an electronic document comprising:

detection means for detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

document read out means for speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document by providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases, based on the result of detection by said detection means; wherein said document read-out means locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document as unit, based on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

summary text forming means for processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

selection means for selecting whether the document read out means is to read out [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document.

171. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 170 wherein the one of said pause periods provided at the beginning position of each paragraph is longest, with the pause periods at the beginning positions of said sentence and phrase being shorter in this sequence.

172. (Canceled)

173. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 170 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said detection means discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

174. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 170 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out means is added to said electronic document.

175. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 174 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out means includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out by said read-out means.

176. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 174 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out means includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

177. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 170 wherein said document read-out means reads out said electronic document as a read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document is excepted.

178. (Original) The electronic document processing apparatus according to claim 170 wherein said document read-out means reads out said electronic document with substitution by correct reading or pronunciation.

179. (Canceled)

180. (Currently amended) An electronic document processing method for processing an electronic document comprising:

a detection step for detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said

electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a document read out step for speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document by providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases, based on the result of detection by said detection step; wherein said document read-out step locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document as unit, based on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out during the document read out step.

181. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 180 wherein the one of said pause periods provided at the beginning position of each paragraph is longest, with the pause periods at the beginning positions of said sentence and phrase being shorter in this sequence.

182. (Canceled)

183. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 180 wherein the tag information indicating at least paragraphs, sentences and phrases, among a plurality of elements making up the electronic document, is added to the electronic document; and

wherein said detection step discriminates the paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document based on the tag information indicating said paragraphs, sentences and phrases.

184. (Previously presented) The electronic document processing method according to claim 180 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out step is added to said electronic document.

185. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 184 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out step includes the attribute information for inhibiting the reading out by said read-out step.

186. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 184 wherein the tag information necessary for reading out by said document read-out step includes the attribute information indicating the pronunciation.

187. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 180 wherein said document read-out step reads out said electronic document as a read-out inhibited portion of said electronic document is excepted.

188. (Original) The electronic document processing method according to claim 180 wherein said document read-out step reads out said electronic document with substitution by correct reading or pronunciation.

189. (Canceled)

190. (Currently amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-controllable electronic document processing program for processing an electronic document, said program comprising:

a detection step for detecting beginning positions of at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases from among plural elements making up said electronic document; wherein tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document;

a document read out step for speech-synthesizing and reading out said electronic document by providing respective different pause periods at beginning positions of the at least two of paragraphs, sentences and phrases, based on the result of detection by said detection step; wherein said document read-out step locates paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up said electronic document as unit, based

on attribute information specifying beginning positions of the paragraphs, sentences and phrases and associated pause periods;

a summary text forming step of processing the electronic document by active diffusion, based on the tag information, to form a summary text of the electronic document; and

a selecting step of selecting whether [[a]] the summary text of the electronic document is to be read out during the document read out step.

191-202. (Canceled)